Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRIDGE 02190 131357Z ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 FBOE-00 A-01 /021 W $\,$

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PR 131230Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3587
USIA WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

UNCLAS BRIDGETOWN 2190

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AIDA/W FOR SER/MO/OPM, STATE FOR ARA/EX, USIA FOR R. CHATTEN, CARACAS FOR RSO, PORT AU PRINCE FOR REGIONAL CONTROLLER, PORT OF SPAIN FOR USIS, DEPARTMENT PASS AMBASSADOR ORTIZ ARA/CAR.

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: AFSP, EAID, SOPN, BB

SUBJ: OFFICE SPACE IN BRIDGETOWN FOR USAID REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

OFFICE (RDO) AND USIS

REF: A) BRIDGETOWN 2070, B) STATE 213465

1. NETIHER EMBASSY NOR RDO/C CONTEMPLATE PROLONGED VACANCY SPACE CURRENTLY OCCUPIED BY RDO/C. RELOCATION ENTIRE RDO/C OFFICE TO CHANCERY PREDICATED ON WILLINGNESS USIA OCCUPY CURRENT RDO/C OFFICE SPACE IN NEAR FUTURE. TO MAKE MOVE POSSIBLE, RDO/C MUST BE ABLE PROVIDE AN ASSURED SUB-LESSEE, WHO WOULD ASSUME RENT IN NEAR FUTURE, NOT NECESSARILY RIGHT AWAY. EMBASSY THEREFORE URGES USIA COMMIT ITSELF TO THIS SPACE IF IT IS CONTEMPLATING EXPANSION IN BRIDGETOWN BECAUSE ALTERNATIVE SPACE ELSEWHERE IN BRIDGETOWN MAY NOT BE NEARLY AS DESIRABLE. ASSIST PAO IN PORT OF SPAIN HAS SEEN SPACE AND CAN BE CONTACTED IF USIA HAS QUESTIONS ABOUT IT. IMPERATIVE WE KNOW BY SEPTEMBER 16 WHETHER USIA WILL TAKE THIS SPACE. UNCLASSIFIED

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- 2. ALTERNATIVE IS LESS PREFERRABLE COURSE OF MEETING RDO/C'S ADDITIONAL SPACE REQUIREMENT ONLY, FROM SPACE AVAILABLE IN CHANCERY. THIS WOULD MEAN SPLITTING RDO/C OFFICE. THAT IS, PART OF RDO/C WOULD HAVE TO REMAIN IN CURRENTLY LEASED SPACE AT TRIDENT HOUSE.
- 3. WE HAVE NOT BEEN ADVISED THAT USIA HAS REACHED DECISION ON

EXPANDING ITS BARBADOS OFFICE BUT DESIRABILITY OF THIS PARTICULAR SPACE FOR USIA IS SUCH THAT WE WISH TO ENSURE USIA FULLY CONSIDERS OPTION.

- 4. ASSUMING USIA WILLINGNESS OCCUPY CURRENT RDO/C SPACE, EMBASSY CAN NOT FINANCE RELOCATION COSTS ENTIRE RDO/C OFFICE. AS RENT ON CHANCERY SPACE WILL BE PAID OCTOBER 1 FOR ONE YEAR, EMBASSY PROPOSES RDO/C OCCUPY REQUIRED PORTION OF SPACE VACATED BY CONSULAR SECTION FREE OF CHARGE FOR FY78, OR WHATEVER PERIOD AGREED TO BY ARA/EX AND AID/W AND THAT AID COVER ALL COST OF RELOCATION. IF EMBASSY WERE TO FUND RELOQTION, AUTHORITY AND FUND FOR THIS WOULD HAVE TO BE GRANTED BY ARA/EX. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES IT WOULD BE IN BEST INTEREST FOR ALL TO SETTLE THIS ASPECT ON BASIS EVERYONE GIVING A LITTLE. WE ARE CONFIDENT FORMULA COULD BE FOUND IN WASHINGTON
- 5. AID AFFAIRS OFFICER, WHO ONLY RDO/C STAFF MEMBER AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS, CURRENTLY SCHEDULED VISIT ANTIGUA SEPTEMBER 18 THROUGH 22 AND CAN NOT DESIGNATE ANOTHER OFFICER AS ACTING SINCE TRAVELING WITHIN AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY.
- 6. TO PRECLUDE LOSS AVAILABLE OPERATING EXPENSES FUNDS, MUST ENTER INTO COMMITMENT NOT LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 16 FOR COST ESTIMATES AND ARCHITECTURAL LAYOUT FOR VACANT SPACE IN CHANCERY BASED ON RELOCATION ENTIRE OFFICE OR ALTERNATIVELY ON ADDITIONAL SPACE REQUIREMENT ONLY.

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- 7. IF RELOCATION ENTIRE OFFICE INDICATED, IT NOT CLEAR WHETHER AUTHORITY GRANTED PARA 2 REFERENCE B PREDICATED ON EMBASSY'S ABILITY/WILLINGNESS FUND RELOCATION COSTS.
- 8. PRIORITY REPLY REQUESTED. EDDY

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Subject: OFFICE SPACE IN BRIDGETOWN FOR USAID REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICE (RDO) AND USIS

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